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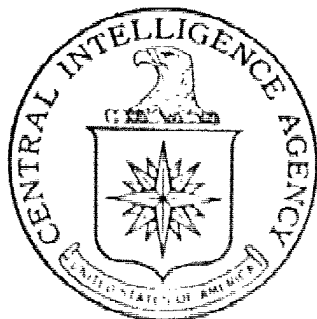
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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

AN EVALUATION OF THE PETISOVO AREA, USSR

Declassification Review by NIMA / DoD



OP/I-221

November 9, 1950

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

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AN EVALUATION OF THE FETISOVO AREA, USSR

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This memorandum is in response to an internal request to evaluate and revise maps of selected area covered by [REDACTED] photography in the USSR. Small scale [REDACTED] photography covers approximately 5,000 square miles extending from the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea in the vicinity of Fetisovo (42°45'N-52°37'E) to Busaga (43°22'N-54°32'E). The small scale and poor quality of the photography precludes detailed analysis of the area. Only major physical features and the largest and most conspicuous cultural features are discernible on the photographic coverage.

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The most noticeable difference between the photography and map evaluated in this report (USAF Pilotage Chart, 326A) was in the location of escarpments, salt lakes, sand dune areas, and visible roads. (see attached map overlay)

The entire area is composed almost entirely of horizontally bedded sedimentary formations, with little or no soil mantle, apparently little or no vegetation and interior drainage. There are two large salt lakes occupying interior basins.

The Kosa Ada (a spit) and Zaliv Kinderli (bay formed by the spit) are the two most conspicuous coastal features in the area. The Zaliv Kinderli was completely covered by ice in the [REDACTED] photo coverage.

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The ocean terrace extends back to a steep wave-cut cliff that parallels the shore from 250 feet to 8,000 feet inland. The cliff appears most pronounced to the south.

The Vpadina Kaundy is an interior structural depression occupied in part by an irregular shaped salt lake. The basin is defined by a cliff escarpment on every side but the northwest.

The area between 53° and 55° E has the appearance of a low plateau with an undulating surface characterized by the outcropping of horizontal sedimentary layers, irregular drainage pattern, scattered small dry lake beds and little or no vegetation. Probable roads are indicated by dashed lines.

An escarpment extends to the south-southeast and to the northwest from Besoky (43°20'N-53°38'E). East of the escarpment is a broad lowland area with plateau remnants, extensive sand dune areas, and tilted sedimentary rocks locally forming an occasional irregular linear ridge. A salt lake approximately 10 miles by 4 miles occupies a depression immediately north of Saykuduk (43°16'N-54°10'E). A road extends from Besoky to Saykuduk and to Busaga.

An irregular escarpment outlines the eastern edge of the basin and the adjoining upland area, a part of the Ust'-Urt Plateau, which extends far to the south and east. This upland area apparently has a soil mantle, little vegetation other than grass, and poorly defined drainage patterns.

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Habitation in the area appeared sparse. The small scale and poor quality of photography prevented more detailed analysis of cultural features.

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